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BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

REPORT on the Health of Oldbury

For the Year 1958

**The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street
Oldbury**

Borough



of Oldbury

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1958.

Medical Officer of Health:

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street,
Oldbury

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

ALDERMAN F. W. THOMPSON, J.P., *Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR W. CARTER, *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN J. W. BRIGHT, J.P., C.A.

ALDERMAN A. GUNN, C.C.

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR J. D. BEARD, O.B.E., C.C.

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. GARRATT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE.

COUNCILLOR B. H. TARR.

OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

County Council Representatives:

MR. R. R. ADAM, C.A.

MR. J. W. BRIGHT, J.P., C.A.

MRS. E. M. GOODE, C.C.

MAJOR M. F. S. JEWELL, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

MR. H. PARKES, J.P., C.A.

MR. S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman.*

Oldbury Borough Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN A. GUNN, C.C.

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN F. W. THOMPSON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P., C.C.

Obituary.

COUNCILLOR W. HAYES, C.C.

Died 17th August, 1958.

Co-opted Members:

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE (representing the
Oldbury Committee for Education).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

D. M. BLOMFIELD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
(Resigned 4.6.58)

G. R. THORPE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 1.9.58)

Assistant Medical Officer:

Divisional Dental Officer:

JAMES RODGERS, D.F.M., L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

ALMA M. FACER, L.D.S. (Part-time).

Ophthalmic Specialist (Part-time):

GUY F. G. SIGGINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.i.)

Deputy Chief—F. W. KEENE, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.k.)

Additional—F. J. ANDREWS, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

E. N. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

C. C. WILKES, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (a.b.)

Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:

Miss M. R. CLARKE (c.d.e)

Health Visitor—School Nurses:

Miss H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.). Miss B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.)

Miss M. LEE (c.d.e.)

Miss A. LEANDRI (c.d.e.) (Commenced 1.1.58)

Miss E. A. HASTIE (c.d.e.) (Commenced 1.1.58)

Tuberculosis Visitor:

Miss L. L. PRESCOTT (e)

Senior Midwife/District Nurse:

Miss E. F. E. MONK (c.d.e.j.)

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE M. M. BISHOP, (d.e.) NURSE K. STENNETT (d.e.f.)
,, B. EWINGS (d.e.) ,, A. M. WILLIAMS (d.)
,, H. GALLAGHER (d.)

District Nurses:

MRS. S. J. GALLAGHER (e.) MRS. V. M. MASSEY (e.)
,, E. L. YARRANTON (g.) (Commenced 1.4.58)
,, L. I. BAKER (g.) ,, E. DAVIES (g.)
Miss M. BASTERFIELD (g.) (Commenced 6.1.58)
J. GILLARD (e.j.) (Resigned 28.2.58)

Day Nursery:

Matron: MRS. C. E. M. DAWSON (d.e.)
Miss V. CADDICK.

Clerical Staff:

Health:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY
Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON
MRS. D. M. EGGINTON
,, P. YATES
(Resigned 30.9.58)
Miss S. PARTINGTON
,, E. YORK
,, I. THOMAS
,, J. A. SMITH
(Commenced 14.7.58)

Sanitary:

Chief Clerk—
F. W. HACKETT
Miss M. CALLCOTT
(Shorthand-Typist)
J. A. JEAVONS
R. A. MADDOCK
A. G. SABIN
J. CUTLER, Cleansing Depot,
(Weighbridge Clerk)

NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) State Registered Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h) Diploma of the Institute of Public Cleansing.
- (i) Honours Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene
- (j) Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (k) Holds the Smoke Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1958.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.**

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the Borough for the year 1958.

Vital Statistics.

The general death-rate (standardised) at 13.24 is the highest recorded in Oldbury for many years and compared unfavourably with the rate of 11.7 for England and Wales. The excess deaths occurred in infancy and among the older members of the community. In the latter, diseases of the heart and circulatory system were mainly responsible, but there was also an increase in deaths from Pneumonia. It should be pointed out, however, that from January 1st, 1958 the General Register Office has assigned deaths occurring in chronic sick or mental hospitals to the area of usual residence, unless the deceased has been there for more than six months. This procedure would have the effect of increasing Oldbury's death-rate.

Among the deaths are included 12 suicides of which no fewer than 10 were the result of domestic gas poisoning. Whatever may be the factors leading to suicide, most methods of self-destruction involve some suffering or discomfort and this may often discourage the attempt or lead to its failure. Coal gas produces unconsciousness painlessly and rapidly and leaves no opportunity for second thoughts. The addition of a gas to domestic gas supplies which would not interfere with combustion, but would have a strong odour or an irritant effect (like tear-gas), should be of value in preventing the increasing number of deaths, accidental and suicidal, from this cause.

Infant mortality showed a further increase over the previous year and the rate of 29.37 compares unfavourably with 22.6 for the whole country. This increase has been in babies between 2 and 6

months old—3 from Pneumonia and 2 from Asphyxia. These deaths could have been prevented and their occurrence is a challenge to our health services, both preventive and curative.

On the other hand the still-birth rate for the Borough was only 17.06 which compares very favourably with the rate of 28.64 for the previous year. As a result the peri-natal mortality rate (deaths directly connected with the birth process) was less than that for England and Wales. Also on the credit side is the reduction in the total number of deaths from cancer of the lung from 27 in 1957 to 17 in 1958.

Infectious Diseases.

There was 44 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year. As Dr. Mayfield, the Chest Physician, writes in his report, this incidence, although higher than that for the previous two years, is lower than that for 1945–1955 and should not be regarded as a significant increase in the prevalence of this disease. It is nevertheless disappointing having regard to the falling incidence throughout the country.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit's G.P. Sessions proved their value once again during the year. The number of examinations carried out was increased and 12 cases of Tuberculosis requiring close clinic supervision or treatment were discovered. A further 10 cases required occasional supervision and many non-tuberculous abnormalities were detected. Of the active tuberculous cases, five were coughing tubercle bacilli and had they not been discovered could have given rise to further cases.

If we are finally to eradicate tuberculosis we must exercise constant vigilance. Every new case should be thoroughly investigated until the source of infection has been discovered. Once this person has been traced it should be possible by treatment to prevent further infection arising. But difficulties arise in the application of these apparently simple measures. Three children during the year acquired their infection from their mother who discharged herself from Sanatorium against medical advice. Another 3 children at a junior school were found to be infected as the result of a survey carried out following the discovery of the disease in a temporary teacher.

The incidence of all other notifiable disease was less than in the previous year with the exception of Scarlet Fever. This latter is a very mild disease nowadays, only the presence of a rash distinguishing it from streptococcal throat infections which are widely prevalent but not notifiable.

Protective inoculations are now available against most of the infectious diseases. The one notable exception is Measles. Although modern therapy has virtually eliminated the complications, the disease itself is very widespread during epidemic periods and is the source of considerable dislocation at home and school and of many additional calls on the family doctor.

It is to be hoped that the production of a vaccine for the prevention of Measles will not be long delayed.

With all the publicity afforded to Polio injections, it was feared that immunisation against Diphtheria might tend to be overlooked but this has not happened in Oldbury. The immunity index remains the same as the previous year and indicates that two out of every three children under the age of 15 have been protected. There is still room for improvement in this figure. In particular every infant should be given the opportunity of gaining protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough before the first birthday.

Good progress was made with polio inoculations during the year. By the end of December approximately 9,500 people, the majority children under the age of 15, had received two injections.

Housing.

The importance of satisfactory housing in the maintenance of physical and mental health cannot be too often stressed. Although some progress was made in re-housing families from unfit and overcrowded houses, much remains to be done. The rate of house building was quite inadequate to deal with the demand for accommodation. Only 64 houses were completed during this year by the Corporation, a figure which was surpassed not only by private contractors but also by a neighbouring authority erecting houses in Oldbury. Housing statistics for Worcestershire included in the report of the County Medical Officer show the total of houses built by each borough between April 1st, 1945 and December 31st, 1957. Oldbury stands at the bottom of the list with only 29.9 houses per 1,000 of the population completed by the local authority. The neighbouring boroughs of Halesowen, Kidderminster and Stourbridge completed 40.8, 53.2 and 56.4 per thousand of the population respectively.

Progress in dealing with unfit houses must necessarily depend on the rate of provision of new houses and it is not surprising, but none the less disappointing, to find that only 31 individually unfit houses were represented during the year and no clearance area.

A further contribution towards providing adequate accommodation for those living in insanitary or overcrowded conditions would be to make the best use of the available accommodation. Enquiries have shown that there is considerable under-occupation of council houses, in many instances three-bedroomed houses being occupied by two or even one person. While the undesirability of displacing people, especially elderly people, from their houses is appreciated, many of these tenants would readily accept the tenancy of a bungalow or small flat. The need for one bedroom accommodation also often arises when re-housing from clearance areas is being carried out. A close co-ordination between the departments concerned is essential if the future housing requirements of the Borough are to be adequately met.

Deprived Children.

Unfortunately, for reasons of economy, the Day Nursery was closed at the end of May. Many of the children who had attended were children of parents who could not or would not look after them properly and their attendance at the Day Nursery helped to prevent the break-up of the family. Some have subsequently had to be admitted to residential nurseries maintained by the County Children's Committee which is a more expensive and less desirable solution to the problem of children neglected in their own homes.

There is a very real need for more foster-homes to be provided in Oldbury either for the temporary care of children during the mother's stay in hospital or for long-term provision of home and family life to those unfortunate children who have had to be taken into the care of the Local Authority. Those in a position to take the children would be rendering a social service of the greatest possible value and would have the gratification of seeing the results of their efforts in the happiness of these children who have been deprived of the opportunity of normal family life. Clothes and maintenance allowances are provided by the Children's Committee.

The Elderly.

The work of the Home Nursing and Home Help services continues to increase. The District Nurses paid more than 25,000 visits during the year and of these almost 18,000 were to patients over the age of 65 and in the case of 200 of these patients more than 24 visits were paid during the year.

Out of a total of 139 cases which received the services of a Home Help, no less than 107 were classified as chronic sick. The great value of these services is that they enable the elderly sick to cope with their infirmities in their own homes, where they prefer to be. By doing so they also help to relieve the pressure on hospital beds, thus making more available for those patients for whom hospital treatment is essential.

If the financing of hospital beds and of local authority services were under the same administration it would be readily appreciated that an increase in domiciliary services would result in economy since treatment in hospital is so much more expensive. Unfortunately, it is difficult to persuade one spending authority to increase its expenditure so that another spending authority may be enabled to economise. Both authorities tend to limit their expenditure which results in a shortage of both domiciliary and hospital services. This is but one example of the many disadvantages resulting from the tripartite administration of the National Health Service.

Much remains to be done to prevent the infirmities which force old people to take to their beds. If advisory clinics were available, organised on similar lines to the Child Welfare Clinics and with the addition of Chiropody and Physiotherapy, diseases could be treated in their early stages or prevented altogether. It is well recognised that confinement in bed can be very dangerous for the

elderly and the aim should be to enable them to remain ambulant for as long as possible.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help and understanding I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and of the Area Health Sub-Committee. To ensure the smooth functioning of the Polio inoculation sessions throughout the Borough required careful organisation and close co-operation between the clerical and nursing staff, and a great deal of additional work for all concerned. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the staff of the Health Department, medical, nursing and clerical, for their loyal co-operation, and to my colleagues in other Departments, who have been helpful at all times.

I am,

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY TABBUSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Greenwood Avenue,
Langley, Oldbury.

October, 1959.

Tel. No.: BROadwell 2041/2.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	"The Hollies," Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	"The Hollies," Langley	Alternate Thurs., 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Alternate Wed., 2 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	"The Hollies," Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9-30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	Thursday, 9—4-30 p.m. Friday, 9—12 noon.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Daily, 9—5 p.m.	do.
M. & C.W.	do.	Monday, 6-30 p.m.	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Friday, 10 a.m. Alternate Wed. 1-30 p.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	"The Hollies," Langley	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic,	Monday, 10 a.m.	do.
Chest Clinic	Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 11—12-30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m. Friday, 11—12 noon	do.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,304
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1958)	55,100
Population (Census 1951)	53,887
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.58)	16,354
Rateable Value (1st April, 1958)	£563,421
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,300
General Rate—1957–58	18s. 9d.
Unemployment—31st December, 1958:—	
Wholly unemployed—	
Men and Boys	223
Women and Girls	93
Temporary stoppage—	
Men and Boys	182
Women and Girls	31

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	... ..	374	343	717
	Illegitimate	... ..	18	14	32
Totals		... ..	392	357	749

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population 13.59

Area Comparability-Factor
(Births) 0.96 Standardised Birth-rate ... 13.04

Still-births 13 Rate per 1,000 total births 17.06

Deaths 514 Death-rate (Crude) ... 9.32

Area Comparability-Factor Standardised Death-rate 13.24
(Deaths) 1.42

Number of women dying in, or in consequence
of, childbirth was Nil Rate per 1000 Births
(Live and Still)
... .. 0.00

Death-rates of Infants under one year:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births (22) 29.37

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live
births (22) 30.68

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live
births (—) 00.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 88

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages) 4

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... Nil

3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Live Births	Death Rate
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.4	11.7
London	...	...	...	16.7	11.8
OLDBURY	...	...	...	13.04	13.24

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 55,100 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Mid-1958. The "natural increase of population," that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 235.

DEATHS.

In 1958, 309 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. 10 of these deaths were persons not normally resident in the district, and 215 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 514, representing a crude death rate of 9.32 per thousand of the estimated population and a standardised death rate of 13.24 per thousand of the population. The corresponding figures for 1957 were 492 total deaths, a crude death rate of 8.98, and a standardised death rate of 12.75.

Of the 514 deaths, 22 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 29.37 per thousand live births. In 1957 there were 19 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 24.35 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	160	deaths	equivalent	to	a	death	rate	of	2.903
Cancer	88	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.597
Vascular Lesions	76	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1.379
Bronchitis	33	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.598
Pneumonia	31	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.562
Tuberculosis (all forms)	4	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	0.072

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

HEART DISEASE.

Of the 160 deaths recorded as due to heart disease, 125 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 5 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.

CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of the deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past fifteen years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1943	50,100	48	32	80	1.59	..	..	10	25	45
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37	..	..	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	..	..	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	..	..	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	..	..	5	43	45
1950	53,820	49	36	85	1.57	1	..	7	33	45
1951	53,740	39	36	75	1.39	1	..	5	36	33
1952	53,790	46	36	82	1.52	1	1	5	33	42
1953	53,820	36	29	65	1.20	..	..	6	29	30
1954	54,030	53	37	90	1.66	..	1	8	32	49
1955	54,550	41	47	88	1.61	1	1	12	32	42
1956	54,840	54	43	97	1.76	..	..	8	48	41
1957	54,770	51	41	92	1.67	..	..	12	41	39
1958	55,100	41	47	88	1.59	..	..	3	43	42

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

Site	No.	Age Range	Male		No.	Age Range	Female	
			Average Age				Average Age	
1. Intestinal Tract:								
a. Oesophagus ...	1	82	82	—	—	—		
b. Stomach ...	7	58-82	68	10	38-84	65		
c. Colon ...	3	62-81	73	10	53-77	65		
d. Rectum ...	—	—	—	3	37-77	59		
2. Female Generative Organs:								
a. Uterus ...	—	—	—	4	42-68	55		
b. Vulva ...	—	—	—	1	82	82		
c. Ovary ...	—	—	—	1	60	60		
d. Vagina ...	—	—	—	1	51	51		

Site	No.	Age Range	Male	No.	Age Range	Female
			Average Age			Average Age
3. Respiratory Tract:						
a. Lung ...	7	54-71	63	—	—	—
b. Bronchus ...	8	53-75	63	2	62-65	63
c. Larynx ...	2	69-76	72	1	49	49
d. Epiglottis ...	1	69	69	—	—	—
4. Urinary Tract:						
a. Kidney ...	—	—	—	1	68	68
b. Bladder ...	2	53-65	59	1	50	50
c. Prostate ...	3	70-83	77	—	—	—
5. Glands:						
a. Gall Bladder ...	—	—	—	1	56	56
b. Thyroid ...	—	—	—	1	55	55
c. Pancreas ...	2	57-78	67	3	47-80	65
d. Breast ...	—	—	—	7	46-79	58
6. Miscellaneous ...	5	52-63	58	—	—	—
Totals ...	41	52-83	66	47	37-84	62

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Tables IVa and IVb summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The following table gives the position at 31st December, 1958:

Class	Estimated Population	No. of Acceptances	%	INJECTIONS				Failure to attend for 1st or 2nd
				Waiting for 1st	Had 1st only	Had 2nd	Had 3rd	
Children born 1943 - 1958	12602	9319	73.9	11	76	9160	45	27
Young persons born 1933 - 1942	8400	322	3.8	21	185	116	—	—
Other Groups:— (Expectant mothers, ambulance staff and families; General Practitioner and families, etc.).		150	—	—	3	144	—	3
TOTALS:		9791	—	32	264	9420	45	30

Scarlet Fever.

71 cases were notified compared with 33 in 1957. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance. Only complicated cases are admitted to Hospital, 1 in 1958, compared with Nil in 1957.

Pneumonia.

42 cases notified, and 31 deaths reported during the year.

Influenza.

No deaths in 1958 compared with 9 in 1957.

Erysipelas.

One case was notified during the year as compared with 4 during 1957.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There were 27 cases of Measles and 28 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to these diseases.

Whooping Cough Immunisation at 31st December, 1958.

Year of Birth	Year of Immunisation											Totals
	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	
1958	62											62
1957	312	127										439
1956	33	340	69									442
1955	9	42	285	35								371
1954	7	15	25	208	30							285
1953	11	18	7	19	125							180
1952	7	22	9	9	17	64	6					134
1951		11	23	9	1	5	39					88
1950	1	5	3	18	4		4	19				54
1949			2	4	4		1	4	11	4		30
1948				1	3	2			1	40	2	49
1947		2	4	1	1	2	2			8	21	41
1946			1	4	2		1	1		4	1	14
1945				1	1		1	1		3		7
1944			1							1		2
Totals	442	582	429	309	188	73	54	25	12	60	24	2198

Meningococcal Infection.

Two cases were notified and there was one death.

Tuberculosis.

The following tables have been supplied by the Chest Physician, Dr. R. B. Mayfield, who comments:—

The first of the following Tables shows the numbers of new cases seen at the Chest Clinic in 1958 with their sources of origin. The total number is similar to that of 1957.

The number of notified cases of respiratory tuberculosis (44) is somewhat higher than in 1956 and 1957, but still lower than in any previous year, and should not be regarded as a significant increase in the incidence of the disease. It is noteworthy that, of 28 males in this category, 12 (or nearly half the total) were aged 55 years or more. This finding is in line with modern experience in other parts of the country. Most of these men past middle life have chronic disease which has probably been present for many years without causing troublesome symptoms. In females the majority of new cases occur in the younger age groups. The second of the following Tables illustrates these points and also shows the numbers of cases of malignant disease of lung diagnosed at the Chest Clinic during the year.

There is little doubt that the chronic infector pool which is largely responsible for the perpetuation of tuberculosis in this Country mainly consists of middle-aged and elderly men. If it were possible to achieve a complete radiological survey of all men over the age of 40 years, a long step forward would be taken towards the eradication of the disease in all sections of the population.

The third Table shows the results of Contact Examinations. The average number examined per notification has been maintained at about the same level as in 1957. B.C.G. inoculations were given to 82 persons, the great majority of whom were contacts.

Oldbury is still without its own facilities for chest radiography. The fortnightly visits of the Mass Radiography van continue to be most valuable for general practitioner referrals, routine contact examinations, and a proportion of other Chest Clinic patients. Others are referred to Dudley Road Hospital and the Smethwick Chest Clinic for their chest x-rays. These x-ray departments have been most co-operative, and their readiness to help the work of the Langley Clinic at all times is greatly appreciated.

OLDBURY CHEST CLINIC.

New Cases examined in 1958.

Source ..	Tuberculous				Non-tuberculous and Observation cases				Totals			
	M	F	C	Total	M	F	C	Total	M	F	C	Total
General Practitioner	10	2	1	13	126	74	32	232	136	76	33	245
Mass Radiography	5	3	1	9	12	4	4	20	17	7	5	29
Contacts ..	1	—	3	4	40	35	80	155	41	35	83	159
Hospital Referrals ..	2	—	1	3	3	3	18	24	5	3	19	27
Totals ..	23	6	6	35	182	117	134	433	205	123	140	468

Tuberculosis and Malignant Lung Disease diagnosed at the Chest Clinic in 1958 in Adults (excluding persons examined as contacts):—

Age Group	15 – 34		35 – 54		55 and over		Totals	
	TB	Malignant	TB	Malignant	TB	Malignant	TB	Malignant
Males	11	0	1	2	10	4	22	6
Females	5	0	1	0	0	1	6	1
Totals	16	0	2	2	10	5	28	7

Contacts examined in 6 years, 1953 to 1958.

Year	Men	Women	Children	Totals	Cases Notified T.B.	Contacts per Notifications	Contacts found to be Tuberculous
1953	20	44	50	114	63	1·81	2 (1·75%)
1954	25	42	91	158	65	2·43	5 (3·16%)
1955	22	34	81	137	55	2·49	6 (4·37%)
1956	32	46	69	147	46	3·2	7 (4·76%)
1957	29	43	61	133	40	3·3	1 (0·75%)
Totals	128	209	352	689	269	2·5	21 (3·04%)
Average	26	42	70	138	54	2·5	4·2 (3·04%)
1958	41	35	83	159	49	3·2	4 (2·5%)

Movements of Patients in and out of Oldbury.

Year	Transfers in	Transfers out
1954	19	13
1955	20	16
1956	16	30
1957	9	64
1958	18	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total for 5 years	82	147
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Mass Miniature Radiography.

Extract from the report of Dr. L. A. McDowell, Medical Director, Birmingham Mobile Unit 'A.'

LANGLEY G.P. SESSIONS

Number examined 2,321

Tuberculous lesions:

Occasional Supervision 10

Close Clinic Supervision or Treatment 12 5.1 per 1,000

Non-Tuberculous abnormality:

Referred to Clinic or Hospital ... 25

Others 68

The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1945 to 1958.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	..
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	..	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	..
1950	56	Male	38	1	9	11	6	7	4
		Female	18	4	4	6	4	..	..
1951	70	Male	44	5	8	10	3	12	6
		Female	26	6	11	2	2	2	3
1952	54	Male	28	3	3	5	6	9	2
		Female	26	2	6	6	6	3	3
1953	56	Male	30	4	3	5	4	11	3
		Female	26	4	11	4	6	1	..
1954	61	Male	37	3	12	9	4	3	6
		Female	24	4	12	6	..	2	..
1955	50	Male	31	3	4	6	5	3	10
		Female	19	5	6	6	..	..	2
1956	38	Male	22	1	5	6	6	2	2
		Female	16	3	5	2	4	1	1
1957	35	Male	23	3	6	3	2	2	7
		Female	12	2	6	4	..	..	..
1958	44	Male	28	1	5	3	2	5	12
		Female	16	7	2	4	2	1	..

Five cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1 male and 4 females) were notified in 1958.

Cases on the register at the end of the year were as follows:—

	Male		Female	
Pulmonary ...	(269)	272	(195)	198
Non-Pulmonary ...	(29)	30	(14)	15

Figures for 1957 in brackets.

The following table shows the sex and age groups in which the 4 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis occurred during 1958. For comparison the table includes the corresponding figures since 1940.

Year	Total	Death Rate	Sex	0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 years & over
1940	39	·77	Male 27 Female 12	.. ..	4 6	8 1	5 3	5 1	6 ..
1941	30	·59	Male 17 Female 13	.. 2	.. 4	6 2	1 3	3 ..	7 2
1942	34	·67	Male 22 Female 12	.. ..	5 6	3 1	4 5	7 ..	3 ..
1943	42	·83	Male 25 Female 17	.. 2	3 7	7 4	6 2	7 1	2 1
1944	26	·52	Male 13 Female 13	.. 1	1 3	4 1	1 4	3 1	4 3
1945	26	·52	Male 16 Female 10	.. ..	.. 3	4 3	2 2	3 2	7 ..
1946	38	·73	Male 23 Female 15	1 2	2 2	7 5	4 1	2 2	7 3
1947	27	·51	Male 20 Female 7	.. ..	4 1	4 3	5 3	2 ..	5 ..
1948	15	·28	Male 8 Female 7	.. ..	3 2	.. 2	1 3	4..	....
1949	28	·52	Male 16 Female 12	1 ..	2 5	1 1	6 2	3 1	3 3
1950	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	1 ..	.. ..	.. 3	2 1	1 1	4 ..
1951	15	·27	Male 12 Female 3	.. ..	.. ..	3 2	.. ..	3 ..	6 1
1952	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	3 2	2 ..	2 3
1953	11	·20	Male 6 Female 5	.. ..	.. 2	2 ..	.. 1	2 1	2 1
1954	12	·22	Male 10 Female 2	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 2	.. ..	8 ..
1955	6	·11	Male 5 Female 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	2 1	2 ..
1956	3	·05	Male 3 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 ..
1957	7	·12	Male 7 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 ..	3 ..
1958	4	·07	Male 2 Female —	..	..	..	1	..	1

			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)											WARD DISTRIBUTION								
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	
RESPIRATORY	M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-58 ...	269	—	7	16	10	29	33	55	55	42	15	7	33	30	40	22	44	55	45	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	28		1			4	1	3	2	5	10	2	6	3	2	2	7	4	4
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	1							1							1				
			Inward Transfers ...	7				1		1	2		2		1			5		1		1
		Deletions	Died ...	7								2	2	3		1	1			2	2	1
			Recovered ...	12			3	1	2	1		3	1	1		1		3	2	2	1	3
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
	Outward Transfers ...		14				1	3	3	4	1	1		1	2	1	3		1	6	1	
	F E M A L E	No. on Register at 31-12-58 ...	272	—	8	13	9	28	31	56	52	45	21	9	35	31	42	22	47	50	45	
		No. on Register at 1-1-58 ...	195	—	18	8	13	30	35	49	28	9	4	1	23	21	37	16	31	40	27	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	16		1	3	3	2		4	2	1		2	1	7			3	3	
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	1										1						1		1
			Restored to Register...	1							1									1		
Inward Transfers ...			9		1		1	1	1	3	1			1			4		2	1	2	
Deletions	Died ...	2					1					1				1				1		
	Recovered ...	14		2	2	1	2	2	4	1				1	2	2		3	3	3		
	Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																				
	Outward Transfers ...	8					1	5	2						1	1		2	3	1		
	No. on Register at 31-12-58 ...	198	—	18	9	6	29	29	51	30	10	4	2	24	19	44	16	32	38	25		
NON RESPIRATORY	M A L E	No. on Register at 1-1-58 ...	29	—	6	4	2	2	6	3	4	2	—	—	1	—	6	6	9	3	4	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	1						1										1		
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	2							1		1			1	1					
			Inward Transfers ...	2								2						2				
		Deletions	Died ...	—																		
			Recovered ...	2		1			1											2		
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
	Outward Transfers ...		2								1		1		1				1			
	F E M A L E	No. on Register at 31-12-58 ...	30	—	5	4	2	1	7	3	6	2	—	—	1	1	8	6	7	3	4	
		No. on Register at 1-1-58 ...	14	—	4	—	1	—	4	3	1	1	—	—	1	1	4	—	3	3	2	
		Additions	Primary Notifications ...	4		1		1	1		1							1		1	1	1
			Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
			Restored to Register...	—																		
			Inward Transfers ...	—																		
		Deletions	Died ...	—																		
			Recovered ...	3		1					1	1						2			1	
			Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
Outward Transfers ...			—																			
No. on Register at 31-12-58 ...	15		—	4	—	2	1	3	3	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	4	3	3		

AGE AND WARD DISTRIBUTION ARE THOSE OBTAINING AT DATE OF PRIMARY NOTIFICATION
DEATHS—All the Deaths removed from Register may not have actually occurred during 1958

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50.

On no occasion did the Council have to bear the cost of burial during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

It was not necessary during the year to resort to Section 47 in order to remove, to suitable premises, a person in need of care and attention.

Mortuary.

During the year 53 bodies were removed to the Mortuary and in each instance a post-mortem was conducted.

Medical Examinations.

The staff of the department carried out 87 medical examinations for superannuation and employment purposes.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**Housing.**

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculous cases continues to merit top priority, but families living in overcrowded or insanitary accommodation are also given due consideration.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 254 (167 sub-tenants, 87 tenants) new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups:—

186	with no children.
43	with one child.
15	with 2 children.
6	with 3 children.
3	with 4 children.
1	with 6 children.

Total applications on Housing Register at 31.12.58:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	2,709.
Tenants	...	...	...	917.

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of houses completed by the Corporation	...	62
Number of houses completed by private contractors	...	64
Number of houses completed by Smethwick Corporation	...	79
Number of Municipal houses and flats in course of erection at 31.12.58	...	...
Number of permanent dwellings erected since 8.5.1945	...	2,452

Water Supply.

658 houses in the area are supplied with water from the mains by means of taps not actually in the house. The approximate population so served is 2,300. The remaining houses and population in the area receive water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

				Zone 1.	Zone 2.	Zone 3.
Physical Characters	...	...	...	Colourless	Colourless	Colourless
Odour	...	...	...	None	None	None
Appearance	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
pH.	...	...	...	7.8	7.3	7.6

Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Solids in solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	270	240	320
Solids in solution. After ignition	...	...	...	200	215	290
Chlorine present as chloride				28	44	33
Hardness—non-carbonate	...			105	70	110
Hardness—carbonate	...			90	90	140
Hardness, total	...	...		195	160	250
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...			Trace	0.01	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...			0.08	Trace	0.06
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...		4.5	6.2	8.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...		Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)				0.90	Nil	0.90
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	...			0.01	0.01	0.02
Fluorine	...	...	...	—	—	—

Note.—To convert the above parts per million to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.07.

Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli:—

In two days at 37°C.	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Fæcal Coli Type	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Chief Statistics, 1958.

Registrar General's figures.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	749
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.04
Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	13
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	17.06
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	762
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	...	22
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Total	...	...	...	...	...	29.37
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	30.68
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	18.69
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	4.27
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Births.

The total of 749 live births is divisible into 392 boys and 357 girls, giving a standardised live birth-rate of 13.04 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 749 live births, 32 were illegitimate (18 boys and 14 girls). One illegitimate stillbirth was notified.

Stillbirths.

There were 13 stillbirths registered during 1958 giving a still-birth rate of 17.06 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.23 still-births per thousand of the population, as compared with 1957, when the number of stillbirths was 23; the stillbirth rate 28.64 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.37 stillbirths per thousand population.

Premature Births.

Notification of birth cards provide information about babies weighing 5½-lbs. or less at birth.

PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS																		PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
WEIGHT AT BIRTH	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home & transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in Hos- pital	Born at home	Born in Nurs- ing home		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days					
(A) 3 lb. 4 oz. or less	8	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	
(B) Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. . .	12	1	11	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
(C) Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. . .	10	—	10	2	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
(D) Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. . .	18	—	17	5	—	5	1	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
TOTALS	48	2	43	9	—	9	4	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	

Infant Mortality.

There were 22 deaths of infants under one year of age and 14 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 29.37 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous ten years are:—

1948	...	38	„	or 41.34	per 1,000 live births		
1949	...	30	„	or 34.12		„	„
1950	...	25	„	or 30.30		„	„
1951	...	19	„	or 24.51		„	„
1952	...	18	„	or 24.09		„	„
1953	...	25	„	or 31.05		„	„
1954	...	22	„	or 29.53		„	„
1955	...	16	„	or 21.88		„	„
1956	...	15	„	or 18.67		„	„
1957	...	19	„	or 24.35		„	„

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

Infant Mortality during the Year 1958

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	DAYS				Total under 1 Week	Weeks 3-4	Total under 4 Weeks	MONTHS					Total under 1 year.
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4				1-2	2-3	3-4	5-6	6-7	
Atelectasis	1	3	2		6		6						6
Cong. Heart				1	1	1	2			1		1	4
Pneumonia						1	1			2	1		4
Birth Injury	1		1		2		2						2
Asphyxia									1	1			2
Prematurity		1			1		1						1
Anencephalus	1				1		1						1
Diabetes								1					1
Haemolytic Disease	1				1		1						1
TOTAL	4	4	3	1	12	2	14	1	1	4	1	1	22

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

The following table gives the Oldbury and the England and Wales Rates for the past ten years.

Year	Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)		Neonatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births)		Perinatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)	
	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales
1958	17.06	21.6	18.69	16.2	32.80	35.1
1957	28.64	22.5	16.66	16.5	43.58	36.2
1956	21.92	22.9	13.69	16.8	34.10	36.8
1955	22.72	23.2	16.41	17.3	36.09	37.6
1954	15.85	23.5	24.16	17.7	35.66	38.1
1953	27.77	22.5	16.14	17.7	39.85	37.0
1952	19.68	22.7	14.72	18.3	27.55	37.5
1951	17.74	23.0	16.77	18.8	32.95	38.1
1950	20.19	22.7	24.24	18.5	42.75	37.7
1949	18.97	22.7	21.61	19.3	33.48	38.0

Illegitimate Live Births.

The Illegitimate Live Birth Rate shows an increase on the figure for the previous year.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Live Births
1958	32	.58	4.27
1957	28	.51	3.58
1956	16	.29	1.99
1955	23	.42	3.14
1954	25	.46	3.35
1953	32	.59	3.97
1952	27	.50	3.61
1951	28	.52	3.54
1950	38	.70	4.51
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08
1940	13	.266	1.37

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths during 1958.

Midwives Act, 1936.

An indication of the work undertaken by the Domiciliary Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

YEAR	CONFINEMENTS				Total	Hospital Discharges before 14th day		Domiciliary cases wholly Breast Fed at 14th day	NATAL VISITS	
	DOCTOR BOOKED									
	No		Yes							
	Present at Delivery		Present at Delivery							
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Cases	Visits		Ante	Post
1953	—	41	42	242	325	254	687	214	2328	22
1954	—	17	40	218	275	338	926	218	2124	26
1955	—	16	21	261	298	314	989	218	1482	2
1956	—	7	20	259	286	459	1313	212	1622	—
1957	1	6	20	249	273	552	1625	207	1990	—
1958	—	3	25	221	249	417	1955	177	1971	—

Gas and Air Analgesia.

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May, 1948. Out of 249 domiciliary cases, 188, or 75.5 per cent. availed themselves of the opportunity during the year, as compared with 77.6 per cent. in 1957.

Notifications Received from Midwives.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	III
Artificial feeding	...	...	62
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	I
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	—
Laying out of dead	...	...	—

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified to the Department.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases during the year.

MEDICAL AID.

Medical aid was summoned by Midwives on III occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out in the next page. In 110 instances a Medical Practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.

Mother—

Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	36
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	7
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	5
Inflammation of breast	...	...	...	3
Raised blood pressure	...	...	...	4
Episiotomy	...	...	...	2
Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	...	3
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	3
Foetal distress	...	...	...	1
Premature labour	...	...	...	2
Sub-involution	...	...	...	1
Toxaemia	...	...	...	1
Miscarriage	...	...	...	2
Placenta praevia	...	...	...	2
Retained placenta	...	...	...	5
Stillbirth	...	...	...	1
B.B.A.	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	2
				<hr/>
				81
				<hr/>

Child—

Discharging eye	...	...	...	13
Septic spots	...	...	...	6
Asphyxia neonatorum	...	...	...	2
Cyanosis	...	...	...	3
Jaundice	...	...	...	1
Umbilical hernia	...	...	...	1
Meloena	...	...	...	1
Difficult respiration	...	...	...	2
Other cause	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				30
				<hr/>

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 528.

	Living.	Stillborn.
Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich	... 316	6
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	... 15	2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	... 16	—
Birmingham General Hospital	... 1	—
St. Chad's Hospital	... 136	3
Women's Hospital	... 1	—
Wordley Hospital	... 1	—
Dudley Road Hospital	... 6	—
Selly Oak Hospital	... 2	—
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home	... 2	—
Lordswood Maternity Home	... 4	—
Poplars Maternity Home	... 14	—
Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home	... 2	—
Other private addresses	... 1	—
Totals		<hr/>
		517
		<hr/>
		11
		<hr/>

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
Number of Sessions	25	25	26	26	25	25	76	76
New Ante-Natal Cases	20	30	32	44	24	28	76	102
Total attendances	107	146	170	238	110	149	387	533
Average per Session	4.2	5.8	6.5	9.1	4.4	5.9	5.0	7.0
Blood Test only ..	46	32	74	61	66	58	186	151
Hospital booking only	97	97	131	125	58	53	286	275

The number of 76 new cases is 9.9 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor, Wasserman Reaction and Hæmoglobin estimation are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure. This service is available to the patients of General Practitioners on request.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The three clinics at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

558 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Clinics for the first time. This represented 74.5 per cent. of the registered live births. 40 children between 1 and 2 years and 50 children between the age of 2 and 5 years attended the Clinics for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Clinics.

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
New Cases:—								
0-1 year	97	126	266	231	195	218	558	575
1-2 years	3	3	19	16	18	23	40	42
2-5 years	2	6	11	7	37	35	50	48
Total ..	102	135	296	254	250	276	648	665
Seen by Doctor:—								
0-1 year	407	384	885	819	791	826	2,083	2,029
1-2 years	31	49	70	93	75	111	176	253
2-5 years	25	32	30	76	74	78	129	186
Total ..	463	465	985	988	940	1,015	2,388	2,468
Attendances:—								
0-1 year	1,826	1,742	4,023	4,028	2,936	3,657	8,785	9,427
1-2 years	488	585	986	1,069	782	925	2,256	2,579
2-5 years	291	302	619	817	953	1,190	1,863	2,309
Total ..	2,605	2,629	5,628	5,914	4,671	5,772	12,904	14,315
Number of Sessions ..	49	49	104	102	100	100	253	251
Average Attendance ..	53	53	54	59	47	57	51	57
Children attending in 1958 (1957)								
Who were born in:—1958 (1957) ..	91	(121)	221	(196)	168	(199)	479	(516)
Who were born in:—1957 (1956) ..	82	(100)	220	(220)	179	(186)	481	(506)
Who were born in:—1956-53 (1955-52) ..	96	(90)	201	(221)	237	(239)	534	(550)
Total Children attending in 1958 (1957) ..	268	(311)	642	(637)	584	(624)	1,494	(1,572)

Post-Natal Clinics.

Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 13,962 visits were made to homes in the district and 738 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised as follows:—

	First visits	Total visits
Expectant Mothers	169	180
Children under 1 year of age	755	3,682
Children age 1 and under 2 years	—	2,160
Children age 2 and under 5 years	—	5,700
Other cases	—	602
Ineffective visits	—	1,638
	Total	13,962

Number of children under 5 years visited during 1958	... 3,763
Number of families or households visited during 1958	... 3,066

Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and they render valuable social and clerical service to the community. Their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

Sale of Dried Milk and Other Foods.

During the year dried milk and other foods to the value of £1,937 2s. 1d. were sold at the Welfare Clinics.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of welfare foods formerly undertaken by the Ministry of Food continued during the year from the Infant Welfare Clinics and also from the Central Depot established at the Offices, Greenwood Avenue, Langley, Oldbury.

During the year the following items were distributed:—

National Dried Milk—Full Cream	...	6,320 tins
Half Cream	...	353 tins
Cod Liver Oil	... ..	2,319 bottles
Vitamin A and D Tablets	... ..	1,503 packets
Orange Juice	... ..	177,821 bottles

Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the findings of medical inspections during 1958:—

Physical condition—Satisfactory	...	93 (100.0%)
Unsatisfactory	...	— (—)
Total	...	93

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	... ..	1	Lung Defect	... ..	—
Eye Defects	... ..	—	Developmental	... ..	1
Ear Defects	... ..	—	Orthopædic	... ..	—
Nose and Throat	... ..	1	Nervous System	... ..	—
Defective Speech	... ..	—	Psychological	... ..	—
Lymphatic Glands	... ..	—	Abdomen	... ..	—
Heart and Circulation	... ..	—	Other Defects	... ..	—

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Clinics noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Mr. Guy F. G. Siggins, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1958, 22 new cases attended and the following conditions were found to have been present:—

Strabismus	... ..	16
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	... ..	1
Epiphora	... ..	1
No defects found	... ..	7

Dental Treatment—

Pre-School Children and Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

The pre-school child was usually brought to the clinic for the relief of pain, but more milk teeth were conserved and less extracted than in the previous year. The premature loss of the pre-

school child's milk teeth often leads to more complicated dental problems at a later date. Perhaps the most effective form of treatment given for the benefit of the pre-school child was good advice to the parent.

Unsound dietary habits with poor oral hygiene were still the main decay producing factors. The child tucked into bed with a night-cap of sticky liquids and biscuits was easily recognised by the poor state of his mouth and parents were encouraged to adopt a different routine.

The expectant and nursing mothers continued to have treatment during our evening sessions. About 150 more fillings were done than in the previous year and less teeth were extracted. It is important that these young women do not suffer pain or sepsis while expectant or nursing, but those who came for treatment early on in their pregnancy undoubtedly received the greatest benefits. Most of the young mothers treated understood the need for conservative dentistry and in that respect the situation is constantly improving.

			Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children under five years
New Patients: Examined	...	...	86	102
Requiring treatment	...	...	86	90
Patients Treated: First visits	...	...	78	85
Subsequent visits	...	...	380	18
Made dentally fit	...	...	70	84
Scale and gum treatment	...	...	67	1
Fillings	...	...	306	43
Silver nitrate treatment	...	...	4	2
Crowns or inlays	...	...	3	—
Extractions	...	...	200	140
General anaesthetics	...	...	4	72
Dentures provided: Full	...	...	23	—
Partial	...	...	30	—
Radiographs	...	...	26	—

Family Planning.

The Oldbury and District Family Planning Association continued their sessions at the Warley Clinic, Bleakhouse Road, Warley, each Wednesday from 6-30—7-30 p.m. There were 819 attendances at 48 sessions.

146 new patients attended during the year, the source of reference is set out in the following table:—

Source			
Health Visitors and Midwives	...	...	17
Local Doctors	...	...	35
Other Patients already attending	...	...	51
Newspaper advertisements read by	...	...	6
Transferred from other clinics	...	...	14
F.P.A.	...	...	7
Referred by Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	11
Probation Officer	...	...	1
Relatives	...	...	4

MOAT ROAD DAY NURSERY.

The following table shows the attendance during 1958.

	Number of Attendances		Average Attendances	
	Weekday		Weekday	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January	52	176	2.26	7.65
February	28	100	1.40	5.00
March	42	174	2.00	8.28
April	39	131	2.29	7.71
May	44	126	2.00	5.72
Totals ..	205	707	1.99	6.86

Home Nursing.

At the end of the year the equivalent whole-time nursing staff was $6\frac{1}{2}$. The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:—

	<i>Cases Attended</i>	<i>Visits Paid</i>
MEDICAL	570	21,915
SURGICAL	81	3,259
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS	1	52
MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS ..	6	42
TOTAL	658	25,268
AGE OF PATIENT AT FIRST VISIT = OVER 65	275	17,934
UNDER 5	25	109
PATIENTS WHO HAD MORE THAN 24 VISITS IN YEAR	200	18,156

Home Helps.

This service is organised by the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Service and during the year domestic help was provided in 16 maternity cases, 107 chronic sick cases, 1 tubercular case and 16 domestic cases. There were 30 part-time and 2 whole-time Home Helps employed at the end of the year.

Vaccination.

The following table gives details of the number of primary vaccinations carried out during the past nine years:—

Year	Under 1 year	AGE 1-4 years	GROUP 5-14 years	15 years & over	Clinic	General Practitioner	Total
1949	118	75	8	7	20	188	208
1950	191	15	5	13	42	182	224
1951	245	26	4	8	127	156	283
1952	219	11	4	8	121	121	242
1953	245	16	14	9	138	146	284
1954	239	12	7	9	115	152	267
1955	217	17	10	6	126	124	250
1956	208	13	1	6	107	121	228
1957	289	25	15	13	128	214	342
1958	318	27	9	14	149	319	368

Immunisation.

In all 720 children were immunised in 1958, 598 under 5 years of age and 122 between 5 and 15 years of age and in addition 829 reinforcing injections were given, mainly to children aged 5 years.

Details of the state of Immunisation at the 31st December, 1958, are shown in Tables IVa and IVb.

Borough Ambulance Service.

During the year 9,534 ordinary cases, 543 accident cases, 6,200 children to the occupational centre, and 308 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 62,113.

The vehicles include 1 Austin "Sheerline," 1 Austin Sitting Case Ambulance, 1 Morris Ambulance (27 h.p.) and 2 Morris (16 h.p.) Ambulances.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

286 Road Accidents.
100 Works „
123 Home „
34 School „

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 13,742 and 843 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

TABLE I.—*Corrected Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1958.*

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District												Total Cases Notified in each Ward									
	At Ages—Years												Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall	Total	Total cases re- moved to Hospital	
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards									
Scarlet Fever ..	1	1	2	8	11	39	4	3	1	—	—	1	—	9	4	27	4	4	11	12	71	1
Whooping Cough ..	2	2	3	4	3	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	10	9	1	1	3	28	—
Measles ..	1	5	4	5	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	20	1	1	1	1	27	—
Pneumonia ..	10	5	2	1	2	6	—	2	—	1	2	7	4	10	4	11	5	4	3	5	42	4
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	4	4
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Polio-myelitis: Paralytic ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS ..	14	13	12	19	20	71	5	5	1	2	2	9	5	24	11	68	12	19	21	23	178	10

TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958

Cause of Death	Detailed List No.—	All ages			AGE GROUPS																WARDS						
		TOTAL	M	F	0—4 months	4—12 months	1—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75—85 years	85 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall		
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	001—008	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1
2. „ „ other	010—019	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Syphilitic disease	020—029	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
4. Diphtheria	055	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping cough	056	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Meningococcal infections	057	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
7. Acute poliomyelitis	080	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles	085	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases ..	Rest of 001—138	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	151	17	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	5	6	...	3	2	2	1	1	5	3
11. „ „ lung, bronchus ..	162, 163	17	15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	6	1	...	3	...	4	1	3	1	5
12. „ „ breast	170	7	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	1	...	1	1	3	1	1	...	...
13. „ „ uterus	171—174	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Rest of 140-203, 205	43	19	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	13	9	12	...	10	3	7	3	6	8	6
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	204	2	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
16. Diabetes	260	5	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	330—334	76	33	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	3	24	34	7	12	9	11	11	14	5	14
18. Coronary disease, angina	420	72	36	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	14	24	24	2	15	8	14	4	13	10	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	440—443	14	4	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	6	2	3	2	1	2	...	1	5
20. Other heart disease	Rest of 410—443	74	32	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1	17	31	16	18	5	16	3	15	7	10
21. „ „ circulatory disease	444—468	18	12	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	3	6	4	...	1	1	6	1	2	4	3
22. Influenza	480—483	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Pneumonia	490—493	31	16	15	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	5	8	4	3	2	3	4	6	6	7
24. Bronchitis	500—502	33	22	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	9	11	8	2	3	3	8	3	10	3	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	470—475, 510—527	7	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	...	...	3	2	1	1	...	...
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum ..	540—541	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	543, 571, 572, 764	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	590—594	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	610	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	640—689	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Congenital malformations	750—759	6	3	3	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	2	...	...
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	Rest of 001—795	39	17	22	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	6	5	7	4	3	5	11	3	4	5	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	E810—835	6	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	2	...	1
34. All other accidents	E800—802, E840—963	12	2	10	2	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	2	1	2	1	4	2
35. Suicide	E963, 970—979	12	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	2	2	1	...	1	...	3	1	2	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	E964, 965, 980—999	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTALS ..		514	252	262	20	2	4	3	—	2	1	3	28	46	84	125	157	39	82	50	103	45	88	62	84		

TABLE III.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality — 1958.

Area	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (Ex. Still-births)	Deaths of Infants under One Year	DEATHS FROM							
					Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis (All Forms)	Influenza	Acute Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Coronary and Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease
ENGLAND AND WALES	16.4	21.6	11.7	22.6	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.00	0.54	1.86
LONDON	16.7	20.2	11.8	22.6	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.05	0.00	0.70	1.84
OLDBURY	13.04	17.06	13.24	29.37	0.31	—	—	0.7	—	—	0.56	1.30

LIVE BIRTH and DEATH RATES per 1,000 population
 STILL BIRTH RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births
 INFANT MORTALITY RATES per 1,000 related live births

MATERNAL MORTALITY

RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	
ENGLAND and WALES	0.426
OLDBURY	0.00

TABLE IVa.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION
at 31st DECEMBER, 1958

AGE on 31 - 12 - 58 (Born in year).	Under 1 (1958)	1 - 4 (1954 - 7)	5 - 9 (1949 - 53)	10 - 14 (1944 - 8)	Total under 15 years.
A. No. of children who have completed course (Primary or boosting) in period 1954 - 58	63	1880	3283	3065	8291
B. No. of children who have completed course (Primary or booster) in period 1953 or earlier.	—	—	600	1751	2351
C. Estimated Mid-year child population.	732	3008	8864		12602
Immunity Index:—					
1958	8·60	62·50	71·61		65·79
1957	11·22	61·75	73·16		66·80
1956	3·60	62·88	67·27		62·51
1955	5·02	67·60	68·19		64·26
1954	4·03	68·63	59·21		58·34

TABLE IVb—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1958

COLUMN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION (PRIMARY OR BOOST)															Total Immu- nised at age in Col. 17	Age at Date of Immu- nation (Years)
	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944		
1958	63 278	131 301	80 227	54 220	45 110	13 60	18 99	19 64	4 50	15 40	12 40	7 18	2 15	1 9	3	1,998	0-1
1957	38 34	67 44	109 44	111 23	150 9	10 12	38 2	59 26	22 8	28 15	55 12	59 12	96 29	96		1,208	1-2
1956	11 11	15 11	8 5	9 6	2 6	10 8	7 3	8 1	3 1	4 8	5 4	11 5	6			168	2-3
1955	6 11	10 8	6 7	8 3	4 12	4 29	4 4	2 3	— 7	2 13	1 4	3				151	3-4
1954	14 141	15 152	11 168	10 115	19 55	16 14	3 11	4 13	1 5	7 13	5					792	4-5
1953	373 68	358 11	277 93	353 129	352 67	34 63	22 83	37 43	14 60	24						2,461	5-6
1952	33 5	17 12	24 9	11 10	11 9	40 9	28 12	46 5	13							294	6-7
1951	5 8	8 3	5 4	2 6	1 9	8 8	5 3	11								86	7-8
1950	5 9	5 15	8 24	11 3	8 4	11 15	4									132	8-9
1949	56 181	423 255	429 249	383 214	393 229	433										3,245	9-10
1948	4 3	12 4	3 10	8 9	10											63	10-11
1947	— 3	5 6	10 8	8												40	11-12
1946	2 —	— —	1													3	12-13
1945	1 —	—														1	13-14
1944	—															—	14-15
TOTALS	1,363	1,888	1,819	1,706	1,515	797	346	341	188	169	138	115	148	106	3	10,642	
PRIMARY	720	749	510	723	817	824	717	706	*568	1,021	754	913	779	838	861	Immunisations in the Borough	
BOOSTER	829	1,298	1,247	1,225	1,387	1,726	667	555	*403	373	217						

*Immunisation suspended from July to November.

TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891

YEARS	POPULATION (R. G.'s Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION						Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS		
		LIVE BIRTH *		DEATH *		PHTHISIS DEATHS				Maternal Mortal- ity	STILL BIRTH	
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Oldbury	E. & W.	No.	Rate	Oldbury	E. & W.		Old- bury	Old- bury	E. & W.
—1895	21,331	40·82	30·5	21·33	18·7	89	·8344	201·8	151			
—1900	25,375	37·82	29·3	16·80	17·7	94	·7411	216·5	156			
—1905	25,798	36·28	28·2	17·45	16·0	77	·5969	175·0	138			
—1910	28,580	35·75	26·3	17·04	14·7	118	·8257	147·1	117			
—1915	33,856	30·12	23·6	15·47	14·3	115	·6793	137·6	110			
—1920	38,277	23·47	20·1	12·77	14·4	162	·8464	104·1	90			
1921	37,700	26·4	22·4	11·5	12·1	31	·8222	101·0	83	7·04		
2	38,390	24·8	20·6	11·6	12·9	31	·8074	69·0	77	3·15		
3	39,970	23·5	19·7	11·1	11·6	21	·5388	78·0	69	3·27		
4	40,050	21·9	18·8	9·5	12·2	30	·7490	68·0	75	4·56		
5	40,740	22·1	18·3	10·8	12·2	34	·8344	70·0	75	4·43		
6	42,080	20·4	17·8	9·7	11·6	27	·6415	55·8	70	1·16		
7	43,120	19·4	16·7	11·2	12·3	22	·5102	88·4	69	2·38		
8	33,760	21·7	16·7	11·1	11·7	29	·8589	67·8	65	3·64		
9	34,190	21·7	16·3	12·6	13·4	19	·5557	99·7	74	4·04		
1930	35,000	21·5	16·3	10·8	11·4	36	1·0285	43·9	60	7·80		
1	36,370	20·8	15·8	11·1	12·3	21	·5773	68·6	66	3·86		
2	37,660	19·4	15·3	10·1	12·0	21	·5576	91·5	65	7·87		
3	39,560	17·4	14·4	10·5	12·3	23	·5813	89·7	64	2·83		
4	40,720	19·2	14·8	10·4	11·8	29	·7121	64·0	59	2·43		
5	41,900	18·9	14·7	9·7	11·7	31	·7398	65·6	57	2·40		
6	42,990	19·6	14·8	10·28	12·1	35	·8141	55·6	59	0·00		
7	44,450	18·94	14·9	11·09	12·4	25	·5624	65·32	58	2·24		
8	45,450	19·88	15·1	10·42	11·6	30	·6600	56·41	53	3·19		
9	47,000	18·51	15·0	9·96	12·1	28	·5956	64·59	50	3·31		
1940	48,700	18·74	14·6	11·17	14·3	39	·8008	49·34	55	4·20	38·94	36·1
1	49,390	16·94	14·2	9·98	12·9	30	·6074	70·47	59	1·15	33·48	34·4
2	49,530	19·97	15·8	9·63	11·6	34	·6864	46·51	49	2·92	37·00	33·0
3	50,100	21·89	16·5	9·84	12·1	42	·8382	41·02	49	1·84	35·18	30·2
4	50,220	21·42	17·6	8·86	11·6	26	·5176	37·18	46	2·70	29·75	27·7
5	50,040	20·22	16·1	9·03	11·4	26	·5194	33·59	46	1·93	23·16	27·6
6	51,890	19·32	19·1	9·55	11·5	38	·7322	35·89	43	0·00	26·21	27·2
7	52,510	19·97	20·5	9·54	12·0	27	·5141	36·22	41	2·78	26·90	24·1
8	53,350	17·22	17·9	8·90	10·8	15	·2811	41·34	34	2·14	13·94	23·2
9	53,380	16·46	16·7	13·12	11·7	28	·5245	34·12	32	2·23	18·97	22·7
1950	53,820	14·86	15·8	12·65	11·6	13	·2415	30·30	29·8	1·18	20·19	22·7
1	53,740	13·84	15·5	12·36	12·5	15	·2791	24·51	29·6	1·26	17·74	23 0
2	53,790	13·32	15·3	11·96	11·3	13	·2416	24·09	27·6	0·00	19·68	22·7
3	53,820	14·35	15·5	10·45	11·4	11	·2043	31·05	26·8	1·20	27·77	22·5
4	54,030	13·23	15·2	11·75	11·3	12	·2220	29·53	25·5	1·32	15·85	23·5
5	54,550	12·86	15·0	12·43	11·7	6	·1099	21·88	24·9	1·33	22·72	23·2
6	54,840	14·05	15·7	12·53	11·7	3	·0547	18·67	23·8	0·00	21·92	22·9
7	54,770	13·67	16·1	12·75	11·5	7	·1278	24·35	23·1	1·24	28·64	22·5
8	55,100	13·04	16·4	13·24	11·7	4	·0725	29·37	22·6	0·00	17·06	21·6

* These rates are standardised as follows:—

Live Births from	...	...	...	...	1950
Deaths from	...	...	...	...	1949



BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and

Cleansing Superintendent

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1958.

W. J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Oldbury.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report of work carried out by the staff of the Sanitary Department during the year 1958.

INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections and revisits to premises of 7,181 was very slightly below the figure for 1957 and resulted in the service of 616 notices. The latter number which was well over twice the figure for the preceding year was accounted for by the increased attention given to food premises.

Summary of Inspections and Re-visits during 1958.

	Inspec- tions	Re- visits
Housing Act:		
Repairs	—	—
Closing and Demolition	85	230
Improvement Grants	15	16
Overcrowding	38	45
Houses let-in-lodgings	—	—
Public Health Act:		
Repairs	386	983
Infectious Diseases	13	17
Water Closets and Drains	332	372
Drainage Tests	3	—
Offensive Trades	5	—
Water Courses and Canals	11	2
Dirty/Verminous Premises	111	130
Canal Boats	1	—
Foul Cellars	26	2
Keeping of Animals/Poultry	13	20
Food and Drugs Act, etc.:		
Meat and Other Foods Inspection	282	18
Slaughterhouses (excluding above)	2	—
Bakeries	1	26
Food Preparing Premises	33	42
Ice Cream Premises	15	6
Retail Food Shops	240	98
Markets	2	6
Dairies and Milk Shops	19	5
Food and Drugs Sampling	91	—
Water Sampling	15	—
Food Vehicles	10	1
Food Adulteration	13	1

					Inspection	Re-visits
Factories Act:						
Factories	...	...	...	...	7	7
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	—	—
Clean Air Act, etc.:						
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	33	—
Air Pollution (excluding above)	...	...	...	...	184	61
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	9	—
Other Acts, Byelaws, etc.:						
Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	71	60
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	3	2
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	55	38
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	5	3
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	2	—
Noise	...	...	...	...	9	26
Mines and Quarries (fencing)	...	...	...	...	41	87
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	42	29
Refuse Removal and Disposal (including dustbins)	...	...	...	...	1,607	17
Salvage	...	...	...	...	61	—
Depot Maintenance	...	...	...	...	24	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	484	54
Number of Interviews	...	...	...	...	367	—
					<u>4,763</u>	<u>2,418</u>

Summary of Notices served during the year 1958.

				Preliminary	Statutory
Public Health Act, 1936:					
Nuisance Properties	...	...	...	221	41
Defective water closets (Section 45)	...	...	...	21	3
Proposed work of maintenance on sewers (Section 24)	...	...	...	—	27
Defective drains (Section 39)	...	...	...	71	11
Defective water closets (Section 44)	...	...	...	4	4
Offensive Accumulations (Section 79)	...	...	...	—	1
O.U.D.C. Act, 1929:					
Defective drains	...	...	...	—	25
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	7	1
Factories Act, 1937:					
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	1	—
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	...	...	...	178	—
				<u>503</u>	<u>112</u>

HOUSING.

At the end of 1958 there were 2,709 sub-tenants on the register of applications for municipal dwellings, according to figures supplied by the Housing Manager. This figure is an increase on the corresponding figure for 1957 and reflects sharply the severe drop in the number of dwellings built by the Council during the year.

The fact that only 62 new dwellings were built by this Council (compared with the record number of 307 for 1957) was naturally a disappointment although the 68 per cent. of lettings (including re-lettings) allocated to the Health and Sanitary Departments was, in the circumstances, gratifying, as may be seen from the figures again supplied by the Housing Manager:—

Date order applicants	...	...	...	...	28
Special cases (Housing Department)	...	...	...	...	10
Health cases (e.g. to abate overcrowding)	...	...	...	...	4
Cases referred from T.B. After-Care Committee	...	...	...	...	2
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	77
					<hr/> 121 <hr/>

REPAIRS TO HOUSES.

Routine work of securing repairs to houses under the Public Health and Oldbury Urban District Council Acts resulted in an increase of about 30 per cent. in the number of notices served. This work, which is perhaps the back-bone of the Department's services, is unspectacular but nevertheless essential to prevent tenanted houses from degenerating into slums. The repairs, however, also include some maintenance to houses which are intended to be dealt with ultimately by way of slum clearance and action by the Department is confined, in most of these cases, to the minimum necessary to make the properties wind and weatherproof.

Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

		By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	...	173	Nil
After informal notice under:			
(a) Public Health Act, 1936	... ..	71	23
(b) Housing Act, 1957	... ..	—	—

Summary of defects remedied, improvements effected and nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health and O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1958.

Dwelling Houses:

Roofs repairs	... ..	...	...	76
Chimney stacks repointed/repaired	...	...	...	24
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt	...	...	...	9
Chimney pots provided	... ..	...	...	2
Crest tiles repointed/rebedded	...	...	...	2
Defective spouting repaired or refixed	...	...	...	40

New spoutings provided	4
House brickwork repointed/repared	18
Dangerous brickwork of walls rebuilt	2
Walls damp-proofed	2
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	40
Firegrates repaired or new provided	4
Sash cords provided to windows	24
Woodwork of windows repaired/renewed	29
Broken glazing renewed	1
Sills repaired or new provided	2
Floors repaired	18
Staircases repaired	5
Woodwork of doors repaired	9
New doors provided	3
Verandahs repaired	2
Miscellaneous	5

Wash-houses, Water Closets, Etc.:

Wash-house roofs repaired	6
Wash-house doors repaired/renewed	1
Wash-house chimneys repointed/rebuilt	2
Wash-house windows repaired or renewed	4
Wash boiler furnaces repaired or new provided	4
Spoutings repaired or new provided	3
Water closet brickwork repointed/repared	6
Water closet roofs repaired	9
Water closets reconstructed	2
New pedestals provided	17
Foul water closet basins and traps cleansed	1
Water closet seats renewed	2
Flushing cisterns repaired or new provided	19
Leaking water closet joints repaired	14
Miscellaneous	5

Drainage and water supply:

Obstructed drains cleared	321
Drains relaid or repaired	1
Inspection chambers provided	1
Inspection chambers repaired and/or new covers provided	4
Soil and ventilation pipes renewed	2
New sinks provided	1
Waste pipes repaired or new provided	6
Burst water pipes repaired	16
Courts, back yards and approaches paved/repared	3

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Only 52 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year compared with 68 in the latter half of 1957 (the first six months of the operation of the Rent Act). Contrary to first indications therefore the initial momentum of work was not even maintained (let alone increased). This is indeed remarkable when one considers the large number of tenanted houses in this district and one can only assume that the relatively small number of applications is due to the majority of tenants either making satisfactory agreements with the owners regarding repairs to their houses or being unwilling or unable to go through the complicated procedure laid down in the Act. From observations on the district it is apparent that more repairs and decorations are being carried out to private rented property (presumably in agreement with the tenant). Nothing that has occurred in 1958 has dispelled the criticism that the Rent Act procedure is altogether too cumbersome and involves an unnecessary amount of administrative work.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of applications for Certificates ...	...	...	52
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates ...	...	...	1
Number of decisions to issue Certificates:			
(a) for all defects specified by applicant ...	...	...	16
(b) for some defects specified by applicant ...	...	...	41
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority ...	...	...	Nil
Number of undertakings given by landlords ...	...	...	32
Number of Certificates issued ...	...	...	36

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

Number of applications by landlords for cancellation of Certificates ...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of applications awaiting decision by Local Authority at end of the year ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates ...	...	...	...	...	3

SLUM CLEARANCE.

After the temporary halt in slum clearance activities towards the end of 1957 (reported in my annual report for that year) it was not until March, 1958 that even a token resumption was effected and not until September that the work was really well under way again.

It is therefore not surprising that 31 individual houses only were officially represented for demolition or closing as unfit and none whatever were included in Clearance Areas, compared with 142 and 81 respectively in 1957.

This reduction of approximately 86 per cent. was most disappointing and only gives emphasis to the point made in my report

for 1957 where I stressed the urgency of providing new houses in advance of displacement to which I would now add "of the correct size and type." I say this because it is now becoming evident that a fair number of these unfit houses are occupied by single aged persons or older couples who wish to be rehoused in a home of their own without lodgers or relatives. This surely is not an unreasonable desire and in fact is very commendable where they are able to look after themselves adequately. Shortage of small houses during the year has in fact caused a number of cases where single older persons have had to exist in a single occupied house surrounded by dilapidated void houses. The depressing effect of such conditions has to be seen to be believed, particularly as condemned houses, once vacated, seem to become the target for stones and various other implements resulting in broken windows, loose brickwork, holes in roofs, to say nothing of half-wild cats, torn flock mattresses and pillows and smashed water closet pedestals.

It is a sad reflection on our times that this can apparently happen without hindrance. Properties in this condition quickly become actually dangerous to passers-by and ultimately involve many visits indeed before one is able to say that the site is once again safe through demolition of the property.

Demolition work is seldom started or carried through to completion in one operation except by the minority of contractors and in this respect the number of visits required to see that final demolition is completed satisfactorily is out of all proportion to the actual inspection and other work prior to representation.

Nevertheless 96 unfit houses in all were demolished during the year and 8 unfit houses closed in lieu of demolition, after vacation. Two houses included in these numbers were demolished in default and the costs recovered from the owners.

The following table is a summary of slum clearance action during the year:—

Houses Demolished.

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
<i>In Clearance Areas.</i>			
Houses unfit for human habitation ...	64	143	45
Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ...	—	—	—
Houses on land acquired under Section 43, Housing Act, 1957 (or Section 27, Housing Act, 1936) ...	—	15	4
<i>Not in Clearance Areas.</i>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, or Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957 ...	24	88	23
Local Authority-owned houses (unfit)	8	11	4

Unfit Houses Closed.

	Number	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
Under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 or Sections 16 or 17, Housing Act, 1957	8	26	8

OVERCROWDING.

The difficulties in new house building which were being felt towards the end of 1957 increased sharply during 1958 and were reflected in the small number (3) of cases of overcrowding relieved. Whilst this was inevitable it is nevertheless to be regretted, since in many cases rehousing in a Council house brings much-needed relief to social and physical conditions which are almost unendurable.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

As the staffing difficulties in the Department eased a little during the year and those in the Borough Surveyor's Department apparently increased, the work of dealing with these grants reverted to the Public Health Inspectorate with effect from the 1st September, 1958. The relevant figures for the work of both Departments during the year are as follow:—

	Borough Surveyor	Chief Public Health Inspector	Total
1. Number of applications received	12	9	21
2. Number of applications approved	8	6	14
3. Total amount approved as grant	£648	£450	£1,098
4. Number of applications rejected	4	3	7
5. Applications not proceeded with by applicants	1	—	1

This was the year which had not yet seen the birth of the "standard grant" and in which the old (discretionary) grant was at the discretion of the Council. At the end of the year the Council was giving a maximum grant of £75 irrespective of the scope or cost of the schemes submitted by applicants. The grants, although not over-generous by standards brought in by amending legislation, secured however a modest amount of improvement work.

DRAINAGE AND CONSERVANCY.

There was no substantial change in the drainage and sewerage of the Borough during the year although major additions to the sewerage works were in hand at the end of the year. Only 15 premises are not connected to a public sewer, all by reason of inaccessibility.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to the whole of the Borough by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company continued to be entirely satisfactory during the year. 11 routine samples taken by the Department for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were satisfactory. 2 samples taken following complaints of abnormal taste or colour revealed that the causes of the troubles were the unsatisfactory condition of service pipes and a vessel used for heating the water. These defects were remedied and the water supply was thereafter satisfactory.

CANALS AND WATER COURSES.

Arrangements were in hand at the end of the year to drain and fill in certain canal arms no longer used for navigation. These proposals are indeed welcome since unused lengths of canal inevitably become receptacles for the disposal of refuse and unwanted articles.

The condition of the canals and water courses generally give no cause for satisfaction and in some cases are virtually open sewers due to the industrial effluents which find their way into various canal arms and brook courses, with inadequate treatment. The powers to deal with these conditions by a Local Authority are pitifully inadequate, necessitating strong evidence of prejudice to public health or a nuisance to the public at large. Until stronger powers are conferred on Local Authorities to deal in particular with canals (where, unlike natural water courses, there is virtually no flow to effect some improvement in the condition of the water) one must regrettably look to the owners of the canals, with their control over the uses of the water, to secure much-needed improvement.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) The number of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulation, 1949-54 during the year was as follows:—

1. Dealers' (Pasteurising plant)	1
2. Dealers':—	
(a) Pasteurised	20
(b) Tuberculin Tested	7
(c) Sterilised	87
3. Supplementary:—	
(a) Pasteurised	14
(b) Tuberculin Tested	13
(c) Sterilised	14
	149

(b) Number of registered milk distributors retailing milk in the Borough whose premises are located:—				
1. In the Borough	...	...	...	87
2. Outside the Borough	...	...	...	14
(c) Number of samples of pasteurised milk taken from the sole pasteurising dairy in the Borough:—				
			Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	36	—	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	36	—	
Number of samples of designated milk taken which originated outside the district:—				
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	26	—	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	26	—	
Number of samples of pasteurised dairy cream taken from a dairy in the Borough carrying out own separation:—				
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	12	1	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	9	—	
Number of samples taken in the Borough of fresh dairy cream separated outside the district:—				
(a) for bacteriological examination	...	2	—	
(b) for chemical analysis	...	2	—	
Number of samples of washed milk bottles	...	27	—	

There was an improvement in the bacteriological condition of fresh cream samples taken during the year, only 1 of 14 samples being unsatisfactory, due again to post-pasteurisation contamination. At the end of the year attempts were being made to overcome this by in-bottle pasteurisation.

The sole dairy farm in the Borough was still producing a small gallonage of milk at the end of 1958 but was due to cease milk production in the spring of 1959.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION.

The number of food animals slaughtered in 1958 at the sole private slaughterhouse in the Borough dropped substantially due to a second butcher who had been using the slaughterhouse ceasing to kill there. The meat produced was again of a high standard, of good quality and carcasses well-dressed. No animals were killed on unlicensed premises.

Meat and Other Foods Condemnation for the year 1958.

					Weight				
					T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Carcase Meat and Offal (from sole Private slaughterhouse)					9	3	1	8	
Other Foodstuffs:—									
No. of tins, pkts., etc					Weight				
					T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Ozs.
214	Meat	...	...	...	4	1	7	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	
28	Ham	...	...	...	2	1	5	15	
12	Tongue	...	...	...				24	6
73	Soups	...	...	...		2	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
120	Fish	...	...	...		1	9	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	
624	Fruit	...	...	...	7	2	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
581	Vegetables	...	...	...	2	1	13	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	
114	Milk and Cream	...	...	...	1	0	10	13	
	Cheese	...	...	...	1	2	10	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Margarine	...	...	...				2	4
	Bacon	...	...	...			3	12	0
	Desiccated Coconut	...	...	...			2	20	0
	Polento Flour	...	...	...	5	0	0	0	
8	Cereals	...	...	...				7	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Sausage	...	...	...		1	2	12	
	Sugar	...	...	...				8	0
	Cake	...	...	...				12	0
10	Stews	...	...	...				10	0
55	Meat and Fish Paste	...	...	...				5	4
3	Jelly	...	...	...				1	0
6	Jams and Marmalade	...	...	...				6	0
7	Sauces/Pickles	...	...	...				4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
4	Coffee and Chicory	...	...	...				1	0
5	Poultry	...	...	...					7 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Chocolate	...	...	...				1	0
3	Horlicks	...	...	...				2	0
6	Rice	...	...	...				5	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	Salad Cream	...	...	...					9 $\frac{1}{4}$
13	Food drink	...	...	...				3	8
25	Sandwich Spread	...	...	...				6	4
	Dried Fruit	...	...	...		1	14	8	
	Hind quarters of Beef	...	...	...		2	8	0	
4	Miscellaneous	...	...	...				1	3
					1	8	3	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Plus slaughterhouse condemnations					9	3	1	8	
Total ...					1	18	2	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Totals
Number killed	...	225	8	29	759	750	—	1,771
Number inspected	...	225	8	29	759	750	—	1,771
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis								
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	75	1	—	55	114	—	—	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticercosis	...	33.33	12.5	—	7.24	15.2	—	—
Tuberculosis only								
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	11	3	—	—	17	—	—	—
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	4.88	37.5	—	—	2.26	—	—
Cysticercosis								
(1) Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Generalised and totally con- demned	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Inspection, 1958.

Reason for Condemnation

(1) Cattle (including Calves)

Disease	Car- cases	Head and Tongue	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Kidneys	Mesenter- ies	Thick Skirts	Udders
Tuberculosis	...	4	4	—	1	—	8	—	1
Abscesses	...	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis	...	—	1	—	44	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Conges- tion and Pleurisy	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pentastomes	...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Telangiectasis	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Contamination	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	5	11	1	55	1	12	—	1

) Sheep.

Disease	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Car- cases	Spleens	Mesenter- ies	Omenta	Shanks
Pneumonia and Con- gestion ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection ...	19	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abcesses ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Edematid Cyst ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Phritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	35	23	1	—	—	—	1	1

) Pigs.

Disease	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Mesenter- ies	Hearts	Kidneys	Feet	Spleens	Joints
Tuberculosis ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia, Conges- tion and Pleurisy ...	—	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edematid Cyst ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Myocarditis ...	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection ...	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abcesses ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—
Phritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Con- gestion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	16	83	23	—	13	3	—	5	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

1958 saw the introduction of the Slaughterhouses Act, the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals Act, all intended to improve the conditions under which animals are killed for food and our meat is produced. Not all this new legislation was operative at 31st December, 1958 and it will be more appropriate to comment on it in my next annual report. There can, however, seldom have been passed an Act of Parliament which was more difficult to understand than the new Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND MEAT AND FOOD.

Unsound meat and offals were disposed of after staining, to a firm in an adjoining district carrying out dry rendering of animal wastes. All other unsound foodstuffs were disposed of at the Council's refuse tip, Taylor's Lane.

No inspection of large or special consignments of food was necessary during the year.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following food businesses were carried on during the year:—

Wholesale Grocers	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers (including sausage manufacturers)	...	...	...	...	47
Grocers (retail)	...	...	...	...	149
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	28
Catering establishments (excluding factory canteens)	...	...	...	...	23
Industrial Canteens	...	...	...	...	37
Fish Shops (Fried)	...	...	...	...	16
Sweets, Confectionery and Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	59
Fish and Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	7
Wet Fish retailers	...	...	...	...	2
Hotels	...	...	...	...	5
General	...	...	...	...	26
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	109
Food Factories (2 confectionery, 1 vinegar, 1 malt flour)	...	...	...	...	4
					<hr/> 520 <hr/>

The following food premises were registered by the Council at the end of the year:—

(a) *Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:*

Sausage Preparation	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Manufacturing	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	104

(b) *Under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954:*

Dairies	1
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) *Under Section 69 of Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949:*

Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	1

131 inspections (including 54 re-inspections) of registered premises were carried out during the year.

The figure of 506 visits to food premises, whilst giving no grounds for complacency, did, however, mean that at least one visit was paid to all food premises in the Borough during the year. These visits were made possible by the stability of the staff position and a reduced level of slum clearance work.

Two aspects of the hygiene of food premises merit some comment. First, the problem of the lock-up shop with an unco-operative tenant living at the rear remains, accentuated when drainage and water services are not readily available. Compliance, in these circumstances, even with the minimum requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations becomes formidable. Secondly, there are still too many premises the fronts of which are immaculate to

the view of the customer but the rears of which are often seriously neglected and sometimes even insanitary. If shopkeepers and others were to invite their customers to view the rear of their premises as well as their shop, a drastic improvement in hygiene would be automatic.

Improvements, etc., effected to Food Premises.

The Table below summarises the main improvements effected at food premises during the year:—

Premises cleansed and/or redecorated	...	...	8
Premises repaired	...	...	5
Wash basins provided	...	...	10
Sinks provided	...	...	5
Additional hot water supplies provided	...	...	12
Food storage improved/new provided	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	1
Floor coverings provided	...	...	2
New counters provided and others repaired	...	...	1
Towelling improved	...	...	6
Screens provided to foodstuffs	...	...	2
First-aid facilities provided	...	...	4
Refrigerators provided	...	...	1
Lockers provided	...	...	1
Water closets cleansed and/or repaired	...	...	7
Clean hands notices provided	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	4

137 bacteriological swabs were taken of utensils and equipment in catering establishments of which 35 were unsatisfactory. This proportion (25.5 per cent.) of unsatisfactory swabs was greater than that for 1957 but 27 of the swabs were from three small cafes. The ownership of one of these cafes later changed hands and the premises were almost completely rebuilt to a very good standard.

Again the swabs revealed starkly the utter inability of some cafe proprietors to sterilise crockery, utensils and equipment to prevent dissemination of faecal coliform and other organisms brought into their premises on the hands of members of the public. Too many catering proprietors have inadequate means of sterilisation which should be a "must" in any well-run business. It has been said many times but cannot be too often repeated that catering standards in the smaller class of premises in industrial areas are pitifully low even though they may meet *minimum* requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FOOD VEHICLES.

An increasing trend was noticed during the year towards the entry into the district of itinerant food vendors, mainly those selling fruit and vegetables. Whilst there is no doubt a need for mobile shops, particularly in partly developed housing estates, the

general appearance and standard of the vehicles is unsatisfactory. The Department has insisted with success on the provision of washing facilities to all food hawking vehicles but the prevailing attitude of most vendors is that any old vehicle after painting inside is good enough for retailing fruit and vegetables. The exteriors often present an extremely neglected appearance. Difficulty is also experienced in intercepting vehicles operating in the district, some of which appear to have an uncanny knack of evading inspection. The time has come for better legal standards for these vehicles which are greatly at variance with the standard insisted upon for modern shops.

ICE CREAM AND LOLLIES.

Only two of the three small manufacturers of ice cream actually produced ice cream in 1958 and again relied exclusively on complete cold mixes. 14 samples taken from their premises were entirely satisfactory, both bacteriologically and chemically. 6 other samples produced outside the Borough were satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

Six samples of 153 taken during the year for chemical analysis were found to be adulterated or otherwise unsatisfactory. These were:—

No. of Samples	Nature	Adulteration, etc.	Action Taken
4	Desiccated coconut	Presence of numerous mouse droppings	Firm prosecuted under Section 8 of Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Fines of £75 inflicted and costs
2	Pork sausages	Presence of sulphite preservative without notice being displayed	Firms warned. Preservative notices later displayed
1	Chicken fillets	Unsatisfactory label	Label amended

Other samples taken were:—

Article sampled	No. of samples	Article sampled	No. of samples
Milk (excluding fresh cream)	62	Coffee and chicory ...	1
Fresh cream ...	13	Spices ...	1
Ice cream and lollies ...	17	Fish paste ...	1
Soups ...	1	Onion sauce ...	1
Macaroon paste ...	1	Chewing gum ...	1
Flour ...	2	Tinned chicken ...	1
Colouring ...	4	Imitation cream ...	1
Flavouring essences ...	2	Icing mix ...	1
Desiccated coconut ...	3	Yeast ...	1
Rice ...	1	Oranges ...	1
Tea ...	2	Alcoholic spirits ...	4
Sugar ...	1	Nasal spray ...	1
Lard ...	1	Flowers of sulphur ...	1
Cooking fat ...	1	Iron vitamin tablets ...	1
Margarine ...	1	Muscle lotion ...	1
Butter ...	1	Chilblain cream ...	1
Tinned meat ...	2	Eucalyptus oil ...	1
Sausages ...	4	Epsom salts ...	1
Sugar confectionery ...	6	Glucose tablets ...	1
Ginger ale ...	1	Travel sickness tablets ...	1
Tomato juice ...	2		
Pickles ...	1		
Cocoa ...	1		
		Total	153

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD.

1958 produced its usual specimens of foreign articles in food and it is regrettable that this form of contamination of food shows no signs of improvement. Items dealt with by the Department were:—

Nature of Contamination	Action Taken
1. Piece of meat in milk bottle	Firm given strong warning.
2. Metal foil cap in milk bottle	do.
3. Glass in milk bottle	do.
4. Beetle in sponge cake	Firm prosecuted and fined £5.
5. Fly maggots in pork pie	do.
6. Nail in loaf of bread	Evidence of mode of access into loaf inconclusive. No action.
7. Particles of metal embedded in crust of loaf	Firm given strong warning.
8. 90% excess water in milk bottle	do.

These items, deplorable as they are, speak for themselves. It is perhaps only necessary or fair to add that item 8 occurred due to failure of the vacuum in a bottle of sterilised milk whilst undergoing heat treatment and was not due to carelessness on the firm's part.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

No problems arose from work under the above Acts which again was of a routine nature.

Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	1	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	221	48	5	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	6	—	—	—
Total ...	234	49	5	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
itary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	3	—	—	—
Total ...	4	3	—	—	—

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-1954.

The number of slaughtermen's licences issued during the year was 5.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Two offensive trades premises only remain in the Borough, one processing animal by-products and the other dealing with rags.

The former gave little cause for complaint during the year and, on the whole, was well conducted. Sporadic complaint was due to failure of condensing equipment. No complaint whatever was received about the rag sorting factory.

AIR POLLUTION.

1958 saw the coming into operation of the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act previously excepted. These concerned dark smoke from chimneys (and certain defences), grit and dust from furnaces, smoke nuisances (other than chimney emissions), smoke from railway engines and vessels. On the same day there came into operation the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations specifying the density and periods of smoke allowed, together with the Alkali etc. Works Order, 1958.

The introduction and operation of Alkali Orders are not a new experience in this district and the 1958 Order extended the list of works and processes already controlled by the central authority. The additions were as follows:—

Works	Processes Registered
1. Iron foundry	Iron and steel rotary furnaces and raw producer gas production
2. Brick works	Production of blue bricks with reducing atmosphere
3. Steel Tube manipulators (2)	Raw producer gas production
4. Boiler makers	Raw producer gas production
5. Non-ferrous metal foundry	Copper and aluminium refining

NEW FURNACES—CLEAN AIR ACT (Section 3).

One application for formal approval of a new furnace was dealt with during the year. 8 other notifications of intention to install new furnaces were also received. In 3 cases chimney heights were increased under Section 10 following advice by this Department.

As far as this Department is concerned the air pollution problem may conveniently be divided into the following three categories: (1) industrial smoke and grit (including railway engines); (2) domestic smoke; and (3) fumes and odours from chemical and other industries.

INDUSTRIAL SMOKE AND GRIT.

The attack on this problem has been sustained so unspectacularly that it is often overlooked but a silent revolution has taken

place in the last few years. The photograph reproduced at the front of this Report through the courtesy of the Oldbury "News" was taken to show not the state of the town's atmosphere but the sunshine; the photographer has unwittingly proved more eloquent than the written word. Although Utopia in air hygiene has by no means been reached, from the air pollution aspect this photograph would have been almost impossible to take a few years ago. At the end of the year there were still several persistent offenders in regard to dark smoke whose special difficulties were recognised either by the issue of exemption certificates under the Clean Air Act by this Council or their transference to the Alkali Inspector's control.

The Firms to whom exemption certificates were issued gave satisfactory undertakings to continue replacement of old furnaces and to this extent therefore the certificates are serving a useful purpose. All such certificates will lapse permanently in 1963.

The following Table summarises the main improvements effected in industrial air pollution during 1958 as a result of action taken by this Department.

Premises	Nuisance and/or source of air pollution	Improvement effected and/or action taken
Iron forge	Smoke nuisance	2 new furnaces provided with mechanical underfeed stokers
Animal by-products factory	Smoke nuisance	New "Economic" boiler installed with mechanical stokers
Phosphorus works	Emission of phosphorus pentoxide fume	Work commenced on installation of new venturi scrubber
Die stamping premises	Smoke and fumes from lighting up oil-fired hearths	Control of lighting up furnaces tightened
Tar distillation works	Fumes from running coal tar pitch into bays in close proximity to houses	Undertaking secured not to use the bays in future
Vitreous enamelling factory	Grit nuisance from shot blasting plant	Bag filters replaced and nuisance abated
Non-ferrous metals foundry	Fume and dust nuisance	Installation of cyclone and gas washing plant completed
Galvanising factory	Emission of fumes	Fume reduced by installation of new oil-fired galvanising bath with automatic temperature control of bath, together with pre-fluxing of articles to be galvanised
Chemical works	Emission of offensive odours	Better means of cleaning plant and deodorisation installed
Factory manufacturing springs	Smoke emissions from annealing furnace	Order placed for mechanical underfeed stoker for furnace
Manufacturing chemists	Smoke emissions from Lancashire boiler	Chain grate stoker fitted to boiler
Manufacturing chemists	Smoke emissions from Cornish boiler	Bituminous coal replaced by smokeless fuel
Iron and steel stampings factory	Smoke emission from annealing furnaces	Undertaking given to convert furnaces to gas firing

Three points about the industrial problem need to be borne in mind. First, it would be unrealistic to expect that there will be a speedy solution to the smoke problem associated with those processes which have been constantly before Local Authorities for a long time and which have now passed to the Alkali Inspector, such as the blue brick industry. The technical answer to that particular industry which causes so much concern in this Borough is being actively sought by the Alkali Inspectorate, the industry itself and technical bodies and organisations but, ultimately, the problem may be found to be more economic than technical. Secondly, the Clean Air Act does not require standards for grit and dust emission as precise as those for dark smoke, and grit and dust from furnaces is increasing by virtue of the almost complete change-over from hand to mechanical firing of solid fuel. Relatively simple methods of sampling grit and dust in flue gases should be made available to all Local Authority officers and then a standard introduced based on the amount of solids in flue gases. Finally, there is some misconception in the public's mind that the Clean Air Act prohibits *all* industrial smoke. This is not so but when all chimney emissions are brought within the modest limits set by the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations the man in the street may well be satisfied with what has been achieved as a beginning and in the light of present technical knowledge.

DOMESTIC SMOKE.

Although no Smoke Control areas were designated during the year, the Council had the matter under active consideration and as this report is being written the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has given approval in principle to the Borough's first Smoke Control area. It will therefore be more appropriate to comment on this aspect of the smoke problem in the report for 1959.

POLLUTION FROM CHEMICAL WORKS.

The Borough is known as a centre of the heavy chemical industry in the Midlands and inevitably nuisance from smells is experienced from time to time from those and other industries. 1958 was no exception. Emissions of foul odours were usually of short duration and brought under control in a short time as a result of action by the Department even though the majority were from processes registered under the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act, 1906. An attempt to cure the persistent problem of phosphorus pentoxide fume from the phosphorus furnaces at one factory was at last in sight at the end of the year with the ordering of comprehensive fume extraction plant and a venturi scrubber which was due to be installed in 1959.

MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION.

The systematic recording and measurement of smoke, sulphur dioxide and deposited matter was commenced in the District in August, 1958, and the instruments and their sites are shown on the next page.

Site	Instruments	Pollution Measured
Portway Depot	1 Deposit Gauge	Deposited matter—monthly
Broadwell Park	1 Lead Peroxide Instrument	Sulphur Dioxide—monthly
Albright Schools	1 Deposit Gauge 1 Lead Peroxide Instrument	Deposited matter—monthly Sulphur Dioxide—monthly
Langley Park	1 Deposit Gauge 1 Lead Peroxide Instrument	Deposited matter—monthly Sulphur Dioxide—monthly
Municipal Buildings	1 Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide and Smoke Instrument	Smoke—daily Sulphur Dioxide—daily
Perryfields School	1 Deposit Gauge 1 Lead Peroxide Instrument	Deposited matter—monthly Sulphur Dioxide—monthly

Deposit Gauges (deposited matter in tons per square mile)

Air Pollution recordings for the 5 months August—December, 1958 were:—

Month	Portway Depot	Albright Schools	Langley Park	Perryfields School
August	16.57	21.60	19.78	7.91
September	20.00	59.91	23.78	11.54
October	26.56	21.80	21.40	6.54
November	17.54	25.31	27.83	15.49
December	18.82	23.82	25.02	11.08
Totals	<u>99.49</u>	<u>152.44</u>	<u>117.81</u>	<u>52.56</u>

Lead Peroxide Instruments.

(Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected in mg/100 cm²)

Month	Broadwell Park	Albright Schools	Langley Park	Perryfields School
August	1.17	2.67	1.38	0.67
September	3.24	3.22	3.00	1.53
October	2.06	2.73	2.10	1.86
November	2.87	2.91	2.84	3.08
December	2.91	2.74	2.80	2.88
Average	<u>(2.45)</u>	<u>(2.85)</u>	<u>(2.42)</u>	<u>(2.00)</u>

Daily Volumetric Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

Smoke—expressed in mg/100 m³ of air; Sulphur Dioxide—expressed in parts per 100 million)

Month	Average	Smoke Maximum	Minimum	Average	Sulphur Dioxide Maximum	Minimum
August	6.7	13.7	2.1	1.9	4.1	0.4
September	9.5	17.3	1.6	4.7	8.7	1.6
October	12.4	29.9	4.2	4.8	10.3	0.9
November	40.3	96.3	14.2	9.1	30.9	1.0
December	30.7	67.0	8.2	6.3	18.4	0.4

All results were sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Warren Spring Laboratory) for collation and study of the national and regional air pollution levels. Because of the very short time the instruments have been in use, it is premature to comment on the figures.

CANAL BOATS.

22 canal boats remained on the register and no new registrations were made during the year. No problems arose from the administration of the Public Health Act and Canal Boat Regulations.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

113 houses (including 62 Council houses) were disinfested during the year. Proprietary insecticides based on the chlorinated hydrocarbons or organic phosphorus compounds were used with satisfactory results.

Present-day methods with modern insecticides are in strong contrast to those of relatively recent memory where sulphur, gummed rolls to seal doors and windows, etc. were the order of the day. Despite our scientific advances in this field, however, nature is resisting as strongly as ever the extermination of man's parasites.

RODENT CONTROL.

The unglamorous but essential work of killing rats and mice continued during the year in a routine manner and gave rise to no major problems. Work was somewhat restricted towards the end of the year by the illness of the Rodent Operative.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Column No.	Type of Property				Agricultural (5)
	Local Authority (1)	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	40	15,542	1,283	16,865	2
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	14	116	53	183	—
(b) Survey under the Act ...	2	21	14	37	—
(c) Otherwise	15	557	387	959	2
3. Total inspections carried out—(including re-inspections) ...	87	2,283	951	3,321	4
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats					
Major	—	2	3	5	—
Minor	4	97	47	148	—
(b) Mice					
Major	—	3	4	7	—
Minor	12	36	14	62	—
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	16	138	68	222	1
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	22	152	85	259	1
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	6	6	1
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing) ...	—	—	1	1	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out	Nil				

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Routine sampling of the water at the Council's Vicarage Road swimming baths was again carried out. Nine samples taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis during the year were in all respects satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences issued during the year to keep pet shops was 4.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

Note: This section of the report is for the financial year 1958/59 ending 31st March, 1959, and any reference to year should be read accordingly.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

As in 1957/8 collections ran at a weekly frequency excepting for a few days only after the Easter and Whitsun holidays, when the men get two days holiday on each occasion, and following the Christmas holidays. In early January a heavy snowfall and sickness hindered recovery for five weeks but from then onwards a weekly collection was again the rule.

The annual holidays this year caused no trouble at all and a weekly collection was maintained throughout the whole summer despite depleted staff.

The number of dustbins being emptied increased from 16,919 at the end of the year 1957/8 to 17,099 in March, 1959, but the number of emptyings increased from 853,123 to 875,467 in the respective years, involving about 40,000 miles or so walking by the refuse collectors and 40,605 miles by the refuse collection vehicles as a whole.

It has been said that the standard of living of any community can be assessed by the rate at which refuse accumulates. If this is so then the standard of living in Oldbury is improving considerably as 15,669 tons of refuse (including salvage) were collected during the year, no less than 1,024 tons more than in the previous year which itself showed an increase of 710 tons over the previous year. One reads in the technical press of refuse becoming lighter as time passes by but in Oldbury at least the weight of refuse collected per 1,000 population per day has increased from 14.6 cwts. in 1957/8 to 15.58 cwts. in 1958/9. The increased tonnage has been collected without increasing the number of men or vehicles.

It is rare in these days that one can record a fall in costs of any service but I am happy to be able to report that the costs of collection decreased this year as the following figures will show:—

Refuse Collection		1957/8	1958/9
Net cost	... ..	£30,126	£28,955
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	...	41/2	37/-
Net cost per 1,000 population	... ..	£550	£525
Net cost per 1,000 premises	... ..	£1,862	£1,785

It is perhaps interesting to mention that the net cost of collection and disposal of refuse per week from any one house in the Borough is approximately 8d., or say, the cost of one bottle of milk. The cost per person per week is a little over 2½d., which it is suggested is not an exorbitant cost for a service so indispensable and so necessary.

(a) **Labour.**

Once again I report that the men engaged on refuse collection, the major part of the work undertaken by the manual staff of the Department, have worked very well and very few complaints indeed were received during the year.

Indeed it is noticeable that the work of refuse collection has attracted little press publicity for some time, a sure sign that things are going better.

The sound of dustbins being emptied seems to arouse dogs more than any other sound and I imagine that no job of work carries with it such a risk of receiving a bite as does that of a dustman.

It is therefore all the more remarkable, considering the number of more than 17,000 bins being emptied weekly, that dog bites do not result in more absences than is the actual case.

Each collector in the Department on average lifts in the region of 5¼ tons per day (refuse and bins combined) walking, it is estimated, some 9 miles or so in the process. Strangely enough foot troubles do not figure in the list of illnesses occurring among refuse collectors but as one might expect, strains and sprains, influenza and bronchitis are near the top of the list together with another unknown affliction, as a perusal of the following table will show:—

Illness	Man/Days Lost
Influenza	63
Strains and sprains	60
Arthritis	52
Not decipherable	47
Hæmorrhoids	43
Bronchitis	40
Prolapsed disc	33
Rheumatism	16
Fibrositis	15
Herpes Zosta	12
Gastro enteritis	10
Tonsillitis	6
Neuralgia	6
Pneumonia	6
Hypertension	6
Conjunctivitis	6
Myalgia	4

Illness				Man/Days Lost
Septic thumbs	...	...	...	3
Falls	...	...	...	3
Sciatica	...	...	...	2
Coryza	...	...	...	1
Lumbago	...	...	...	1
Total				<hr/> 435 <hr/>
Casual absences (no sick note submitted)				43

(b) Transport.

The collection of all house and trade refuse continues to be made by a fleet of six side-loading refuse vehicles, with two vehicles held in reserve against periods of breakdown or routine overhaul.

Transport costs were down slightly this year by £410 but the time is approaching, particularly with the advent of multi-storey flats shortly to be erected, when bulk loading vehicles will be necessary to deal with the larger type of refuse container installed in such buildings.

There is too, growing concern at the amount of dust that is necessarily disseminated into the atmosphere during the emptying of the normal domestic dustbin. This dust cannot be avoided with the present type of vehicle and at best can only be alleviated. In these days of smoke control areas and emphasis on food hygiene the time is rapidly coming when the question of completely dustless loading by means of special vehicles will need to be considered. Like most improvements such a system would undoubtedly be more costly but the benefits would, in my view, be worth it. This improvement is, to some extent, just as logical as, and on a par with, the substitution of the dustbin for the old-fashioned ash-pit years ago.

(c) Trade Refuse.

The number of business premises from which collection of trade refuse is made continues to increase and as a consequence the income for this year at £929 shows an increase over the figure of £780 for the year 1957/8.

The only thing that seems to cause dissatisfaction with the public cleansing service nowadays is the charge made for the collection of trade refuse.

It is still not generally understood that a Local Authority must make charges for the removal of trade refuse as distinct from house or domestic refuse under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. There still seems to be an impression that the payment of rates covers this type of service but this is not the case. That

the service is appreciated however is evident by the constant increase in the number of firms availing themselves of this facility.

I do however feel that the time is fast approaching when the whole question of trade refuse should be re-examined including the question of charges.

(d) Disposal.

All the refuse collected in the Borough continues to be disposed of by controlled tipping in accordance with Ministry standards. No nuisance arose at the Council's refuse tip at Taylor's Lane during the year.

A Public Local Enquiry into the proposed compulsory purchase by the Council of the Tittford Brickworks site (referred to in my Annual Report for 1957) was held on the 2nd October, 1958, and ultimately in February, 1959, the Minister decided not to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order on this site on the grounds that he considered that purchase at that time would be in advance of the Council's requirements. In actual fact the estimated life of the Taylor's Lane tip at that time was only four years and one can only conjecture what in fact is a reasonable time to plan ahead for such an important item as refuse disposal, especially in view of the almost complete absence of suitable sites for what is generally admitted to be the cheapest satisfactory method of disposal.

Happily circumstances have changed somewhat in the year subsequent to the one now being reported upon, which will be referred to in my Annual Report next year.

It is interesting to note that disposal costs for the year are still cheaper than they were in pre-war days twenty years ago as the following figures will show:—

	1938/9	1958/9
Net cost per ton (disposal) ...	8d. (Dr.)	9d. (Cr.)
Net cost per 1,000 population	£8 (Dr.)	£12 (Cr.)
Net cost per 1,000 houses ...	£30 (Dr.)	£42 (Cr.)

SALVAGE.

I am glad to be able to report again, despite falling prices for baled newsprint and a severe drop in the price for baled tins, a profit was shown on salvage activities for the year, expenditure being £4,072 and income £4,338.

The saving in tipping space makes this service well worthwhile but it is unfortunately only too evident that the time has almost arrived when it will be very difficult to show the profits formerly enjoyed, with wages increasing and prices offered for salvaged materials dropping or at best staying at a level figure.

Public Cleansing Service.
Cost Statement for Year Ended 31st March, 1958.

Item	Particulars I	Collec- tion 2	Disposal 3	Totals 4	Percentage of total gross expenditure 5
	REVENUE ACCOUNT	£	£	£	%
1.	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour	13,054	1,687	14,741	43
	(ii) Transport	9,822	1,251	11,073	33
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	4,335	1,014	5,349	16
	(iv) Other items	2,756	4	2,760	8
	(v) Total gross expenditure ...	29,967	3,956	33,923	100
2.	GROSS INCOME	1,012	4,635	5,647	—
3.	NET COST	28,955	679 Cr.	28,276	—
4.	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)...	—	—	—	—
	UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5.	Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	16 8	1 11	18 7	
6.	Gross cost per ton, transport only	12 6	1 5	13 11	
7.	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	37 0	9 Cr.	36 3	
		£	£	£	
8.	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	525	12 Cr.	513	
9.	Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	1,785	42 Cr.	1,743	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10.	Area (statute acres)—land and inland water	...	...	...	3,300 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1958 ...	...	...	...	55,100 persons
12.	Total refuse collected ... ..	...	...	...	15,669 tons
13.	Weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) ... ..	...	...	...	15.58 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected ... ..	...	...	...	16,217 premises
15.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly ... ..	...	...	...	100% of total
16.	Average haul, single journey to final disposal point ... ..	...	...	...	2 miles
17.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection ...	...	...	...	Nil %
18.	Total refuse disposed ... ..	...	...	...	17,569 tons
19.	Methods of disposal: Controlled tipping ...	...	...	...	100%
20.	Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:				
			Income (Included in Item 2)		Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
	(a) Scrap Metal ... ..	...	£ 470		Tons 55
	(b) Waste Paper ... ..	...	3,867		481
	(c) Totals ... ..	...	4,337		536
21.	Trade Refuse:				
	(a) Income ... ..	...	929		
	(b) Collected and disposed of by Depart- ment ... ..	...			Included in Item 12 above
	(c) Disposed of only by Department ...	...			1,900

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS (Rate Fund Scheme).

Expenditure on this service for the current year and the previous one are given below:—

	1957/8	1958/9
Number of unserviceable bins replaced ...	1,611	1,441
Cost of dustbins	£2,821	£2,436
Equivalent rate charge in £	1.23d.	1.059d.

The expenditure on this scheme, as will be seen, continues to drop, partly due to a fall in the number of bins requiring replacement, and to a lesser extent a small drop in the price of bins.

The scheme started in 1951 and consequently the vast majority of older bins have now been replaced, hence the drop in numbers requiring replacement.

STAFF.

Once again I am in the happy position of being able to report no change in the administrative and clerical staff of the Department.

One vacancy for an Inspector existed during the year but has since been filled as next year's report will show.

CONCLUSION.

I cannot close this report without expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and my colleagues in other Departments for the help, co-operation and support they have given me during the year.

I would also like to thank all my staff, both Inspectors, Clerks and manual workers, for their loyal work during the year, and particularly my Deputy, Mr. Keene, for his able assistance.

I am,

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. MASON,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

October, 1959.